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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mayer et al.)

Serial No.: 10/820,586)

Filed: April 8, 2004)

For: ELECTRONIC DEVICE FOR
PACKET BOXES AND RELATED
OPERATING METHOD)

Group Art Unit: To be assigned)

Examiner: To be assigned)

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is an English language translation of the international preliminary
examination report for PCT/DE02/03760.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

May 18, 2004

By: 

James P. Zeller

Reg. No. 28,491

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Translation

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference ACDPA5144PWO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DE2002/003760	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 October 2002 (07.10.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09 October 2001 (09.10.2001)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A47G 29/14, G07C 9/00, G07F 17/12		
Applicant: DEUTSCHE POST AG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of 6 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25 March 2003 (25.03.2003)	Date of completion of this report 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DE2002/003760

1. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages 3-26, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 1,2,2a, filed with the letter of 30 September 2003 (30.09.2003)
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 1-9, filed with the letter of 30 September 2003 (30.09.2003)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1/1, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DE 02/03760

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

The application falls within the technical field of electronic package locker arrangements.

The closest prior art is described in document DE-A-10000830 (D1), which is acknowledged in the description of the present application. It discloses a method for depositing goods in a locker that is part of a locker arrangement with a computer-controlled electronic locking system. The locker is opened by entering numeric or alphanumeric input media, a chip card, biometric features and the like. A central computer, to which the locker arrangement is linked, manages access authorization. A general key is provided that can lock or unlock one or more lockers.

The present application, which is concerned with electronic package locker arrangements, differs from D1 by the claimed combination of users into user groups wherein a user is granted access to a selection of several functions in one locker arrangement depending on the group to which he is assigned (claim 1).

The problem addressed by the application, namely that of permitting the flexible use of a locker arrangement on the

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

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basis of user groups, is not solved by document D1, either alone or in conjunction with any other prior art document. The idea of granting a limited choice of functions in a package locker system on the basis of assignment to a user group does not appear to have been applied before.

It is determined that the amended claims 1-9 satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 41, since the content of these claims is supported by the description.